

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SAB-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /080 W

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R 181440Z JUN 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3841

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ILO, PN

SUBJECT: ILO: PANAMANIAN ATTACKS ON U.S. CANAL ZONE PRACTICES

1. ADDRESS OF PANAMANIAN WORKER DELEGATE, CEFERINO RODRIQUES,
ON MORNING OF JUNE 16 HAD FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

A) ALL LATIN AMERICA WHOLLY SUPPORTS PANAMANIAN
CLAIMS AGAINST U.S.

B) U.S. AUTHORITIES IN CANAL ZONE PRACTICE "SAVAGE"
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PANAMANIAN WORKERS, PAYING THEM ON
AVERAGE ONLY ONE-THIRD AS MUCH AS AMERICAN WORKERS.

C) U.S. IS DRAGGING ITS FEET ON IMPLEMENTATION OF
AGREEMENT TO CANCEL PERPETUITY CLAUSE IN ISTHMIC CANAL
AGREEMENT OF 1903, AND IMPLEMENTATION MF EIGHT POINT
AGREEMENT OF FEBRUARY 7, 1974.

D) PANAMANIAN WORKERS ARE RUNNING OUT OF PATIENCE AND
WILL HAVE TO RESORT TO ARMED CONFLICT, SEEKING SUPPORT FROM OTHER
COUNTRIES IN A MANNER OF THE BATTLE OF AYACUCHO 150 YEARS AGO.

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QTE WE SHALL HAVE TO CONVERT OUR PLOUGHS INTO RIFLES AND OUR

TRACTORS INTO ARMED VEHICLES END QTE.

E) THE GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION OF PANAMA IS ITS MAIN
NATURAL RESOURCE, AND PANAMA DEMANDS TOTAL CONTROL, JURISDICTION,
AND SOVEREIGNTY OVER IT.

2. USDEL WAS GIVEN RIGHT OF REPLY AT BEGINNING OF AFTERNOON
SESSION JUNE 16, AND STATED THAT IN US VIEW, THE WORKING OUT OF
NEW RELATIONSHIPS CONCERNING THE PANAMA CANAL CAN BEST BE
DONE IN BILATERAL CONTEXT: CITED IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUES AS
JUSTIFYING CAREFUL AND PATEIENT CONSIDERATION; AND POINTED OUT THAT
THE MENTION OF MILITARY ACTION CONFLICTS WITH WIDESPREAD DESIRE
FOR PEACE NOW FELT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

3. PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATE, MINISTRE OF LABOR

ROLANDO MURGAS, SPEAKING LATER ON JUNE 16 CLOSED REMARKS WITH
SOMEWHAT Milder VERSION OF RODRIGUEZ'S STATEMENT, BUT USING
THE WORDS QTE THE PEOPLE OF PANAMA WILL NOT HESITATE TO
REPLACE THEIR CRIES OF INDIGNATION BY SUCH ACTION AS MAY LEAD
THROUGH SACRIFICE TO NATIONAL LIBERATION. END QTE.

4. EMPLOYER DELEGATE OF PANAMA, JOSE G. MONTENEGRO, GAVE
GENERALLY RESTRAINED STATEMENT WHICH APPEARED TO HAVE HAD MILD
CRITICISM OF U.S. TACKED ON AT END AS AFTERTHOUGHT. HE DID NOT
MAKE REFERENCE TO MILITARY ACTION.

5. COPIES OF VERBATIM RECORD BEING AIR POUCHED ARA/LA/
USOAS (GEORGE MONSMA), S/IL (TDBOWIE), AND IO/UNP (WESLEY
KRIEBEL). DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SPEECHES, LABOR DISPUTES, LABOR OBJECTIVES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA04605
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750212-0618
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750639/aaaabjmv.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ILO: PANAMANIAN ATTACKS ON U.S. CANAL ZONE PRACTICES
TAGS: ELAB, PN, US, PQ, ILO, (RODRIGUES, CEFERINO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006